

2 Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new and  
3 desire to secure by Letters Patent is as follows:

4 1. A method for controlling personal use of a device having  
5 operation which is controllable by an electronic control  
6 circuit, the method comprising the steps of:

7 reading user-related data from a user-associated user  
8 authentication means for processing by a device operation  
9 control logic,

10 the method being characterized by

11 said user-related data comprising selective information  
12 concerning a user-desired type of operation of said device,

13 reading operation type specific data from said device for  
14 processing by said device operation control logic,

15 processing both data for providing a result,

16 deciding according to said result if a user-desired type of  
17 operation of said device will be allowed or not, and

18 enabling or preventing said desired type of operation of  
19 said device according to said decision.

20 2. The method according to claim 1, in which said step of  
21 processing user-related data and operation type specific

1       data is performed at least partly on said user-associated  
2       authentication means by means of computing resources  
3       comprised of said user-associated authentication means.

- 4     3. The method according to claim 1, comprising the step of  
5       comparing current time information read from said device to  
6       predetermined time limits stored on said user authentication  
7       means for delimiting the duration of operation of said  
8       device.
- 9     4. The method according to claim 1, for selectively controlling  
10      operation of TV devices where the step of reading operation  
11      type specific data comprises reading at least one of:  
12       current date, current time, available channels,  
13       show-view-codes.
- 14    5. The method according to claim 1, used for selectively  
15      controlling operation of cars where the step of reading  
16      operation type specific data comprises reading at least one  
17      of: current date, current time, geographic position via a  
18      GPS-interface, accumulated duration of use in a  
19      predetermined time interval.
- 20    6. The method according to claim 1, for selectively controlling  
21      operation of at least one computer device.
- 22    7. A device, the operation of which is controllable by an  
23      electronic control circuit and being used as a controllable  
24      object according to the method according to claim 1.

- 1    8. A user-authentication means arranged for interaction with an  
2       operation control logic for a device according to claim 7,  
3       for use in the method according to claim 1.
- 4    9. The user-authentication means according to claim 8, being  
5       incorporated in a Smartcard.
- 6    10. The user-authentication means according to claim 9, wherein  
7       said Smartcard being selected from a Java Card, a Smart Card  
8       for Windows, or a Smart card based on the Multos operating  
9       system.
- 10   11. Interface means comprising connection means to an electronic  
11       control circuit controlling the operation of a device  
12       according to claim 7 and intended for performing the method  
13       steps comprising:  
14              reading user-related data from a user-associated user  
15              authentication means for processing by a device operation  
16              control logic,  
17              the method being characterized by  
18              said user-related data comprising selective information  
19              concerning a user-desired type of operation of said device,  
20              reading operation type specific data from said device for  
21              processing by said device operation control logic,  
22              processing both data for providing a result,

1       deciding according to said result if a user-desired type of  
2       operation of said device will be allowed or not, and

3       enabling or preventing said desired type of operation of  
4       said device according to said decision.

5       12. An interface means according to claim 11, arranged for  
6       communicating with user-authentication means arranged for  
7       interaction with an operations control logic.

8       13. Interface means according to claim 12, characterized by  
9       being a Set-top box for being added-on a device being  
10      subjectable to the method steps.

11      14. A system comprising means for performing the method steps  
12      according to claim 1.

13      15. An article of manufacture comprising a computer usable  
14      medium having computer readable program code means embodied  
15      therein for causing controlled personal use of a device  
16      having operation which is controllable by an electronic  
17      control circuit, the computer readable program code means in  
18      said article of manufacture comprising computer readable  
19      program code means for causing a computer to effect the  
20      steps of claim 1.

21      16. An article of manufacture comprising a computer usable  
22      medium having computer readable program code means embodied  
23      therein for causing controlled personal use of a device  
24      having operation which is controllable by an electronic  
25      control circuit, the computer readable program code means in  
26      said article of manufacture comprising computer readable

1       program code means for causing a computer to effect the  
2       steps of claim 2.

- 3     17. An article of manufacture comprising a computer usable  
4       medium having computer readable program code means embodied  
5       therein for causing controlled personal use of a device  
6       having operation which is controllable by an electronic  
7       control circuit, the computer readable program code means in  
8       said article of manufacture comprising computer readable  
9       program code means for causing a computer to effect the  
10      steps of claim 3.
- 11    18. A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly  
12       embodying a program of instructions executable by the  
13       machine to perform method steps for causing controlled  
14       personal use of a device having operation which is  
15       controllable by an electronic control circuit, said method  
16       steps comprising the steps of claim 1.
- 17    19. A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly  
18       embodying a program of instructions executable by the  
19       machine to perform method steps for causing controlled  
20       personal use of a device having operation which is  
21       controllable by an electronic control circuit, said method  
22       steps comprising the steps of claim 4.
- 23    20. A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly  
24       embodying a program of instructions executable by the  
25       machine to perform method steps for causing controlled  
26       personal use of a device having operation which is  
27       controllable by an electronic control circuit, said method  
28       steps comprising the steps of claim 5.